



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/251,988	02/17/1999	BRIAN SAMUEL BEAMAN	Y0998-088	3930

7590 03/28/2008
IBM CORPORATION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW DEPT
P O BOX 218
YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, NY 10598

EXAMINER

HOLLINGTON, JERMELE M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2829

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

03/28/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Advisory Action

a) The applicants argue: *"The Examiner does not identify where in the teaching of Okubo elements 30 thereof is referred to as "flexible." Thus the Examiner has not made out a prima facie case of anticipation. Also Fig. 1 of Okubo does not show elements 30 extending away from a surface of element 10. Applicants' claim 54 recites "said flexible elongated electrical conductors having a first end affixed to said surface" and recites "flexible elongated electrical conductors extending away from said surface." Okubo Fig. 1 does not teach this as shown in this figure commenting on Okubo Fig 1."*

Regarding Okubo elements 30 not being "flexible", Okubo inherently describes that elements 30 are flexible. It is known in the art that when a probe is contacting a pad or bump of a DUT that flexibility must occur in order for 1) not to damage the probe during testing 2) not to damage the pad or bump of the DUT. In regarding to "Okubo does not show elements 30 extending away from element", Okubo Fig. 1 shows probe 30 having two ends: rear end 33 and probe end 32. Rear end 33 is attached to the top surface of board 10 with the aid of solder 331 while probe end 32 is extending downward from the surface of board 10. Therefore, Fig. 1 shows the probe extending away from the top surface of board 10 in a downward direction.

b) The applicants argue: *"To the extent that resin 50 with plate 90 can properly be viewed as "a sheet of material having a plurality of openings there through, through which said second ends project (applicants disagree that it does), resin 50 with plate 90 does not show "said openings being larger in size than said elongated electrical conductor" as recited in applicants' claims. Moreover, the Examiner does not identify where the plurality of openings are located and thus does not make out a prima facie case of anticipation."*

In response to the above, the opening of element 50 of Okubo could not be the same size to element 30. If both are the same size, then element 30 should not be inserted through element 50

Art Unit: 2829

to test the DUT on top of IC chip 60. Therefore, the opening in element 50 is slightly larger for element 30 to fit through for its intended purpose. Therefore, the examiner believes the prior art still reads on the claim.

Therefore, the examiner believes the prior art still reads on the claimed invention as claimed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jermele M. Hollington whose telephone number is (571) 272-1960. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00-4:00 EST) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ha Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-1678. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. M. H./
March 21, 2008

/Jermele M. Hollington/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2829

Application/Control Number: 09/251,988
Art Unit: 2829

Page 4